



# Nick Bacon

## Director

Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs

Apr., 1993 - Feb., 2005

Nick Bacon was born November 25, 1945 in Caraway, Arkansas. He began his military career in 1963, serving with the U.S. Army and completed two tours of duty in Vietnam in the late 1960's. It was during his second tour, for which he volunteered for as a squad leader, that his strong leadership abilities began to show. Nick was deployed with the soldiers he had just trained in Hawaii. In 1968 "his company came under intense enemy fire. Bacon quickly organized his men and led them forward in an assault, destroying a hostile bunker with grenades. As he did so, several fellow soldiers, including the platoon leader, fell wounded. The twenty-two-year old Bacon immediately assumed command and killed the enemy gun crew in a single-handed effort. When another platoon's leader was also wounded, he again took charge. As a result of Bacon's extraordinary leadership, his company was able to move forward, eliminate the enemy positions, and rescue men trapped at the front." \*

After retiring in 1984, he worked with the VA Regional Office in Phoenix, Arizona. Nick later returned to Arkansas and began serving as the Director of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs. "As director, he helped thousands of veterans and their families while educating youth about the true cost of freedom." \*

He was the co-originator of the Med-Vet Healthcare Program in Phoenix, past President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and has served on the President's National Hire Veterans Committee and the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission.

Mr. Bacon has received the Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct, Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry, V.N. Service Medal, V.N. Campaign Medal, National Defense Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, and four overseas ribbons.

Nick Bacon passed away July 17, 2010 at his home in Rosebud, Arkansas after a long battle with cancer.

\*<http://www.arkmilitaryheritage.com/exhibits/award.htm>